at increased rates consequent to devaluation of rupee were not called for and the rates were also not verified; and

(d) whether it is a fact that price increases of bulk drugs were announced based on notional prices of imported inputs as well as notional consumption of major inputs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The prices of scheduled bulk drugs are fixed/revised by this Ministry on the basis of cost-cum-technical studies conducted by BICP and their detailed examination in the Ministry in accordance with the provision laid down under DPCO, 1987. BICP is an expert body of the Government in this matter. The price fixation takes into account the actual cost of production of the major part of the production of the bulk drug in the country and price is accordingly fixed so as to ensure the availability of medicines at reasonable prices.

(b) to (d) Immediately after the Govt. announced change in the exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies, the drug industry had strongly demanded across the board increase in prices of all bulk drugs and formulations. There were apprehensions of curtailment of production by drug units particularly of drugs having imported content leading to an emerging situation of shortages. Therefore, Government decided to examine the position drugwise and allow impact of increase in cost of imported material, since the time of the last price fixation, due to impact of change in Exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies. Increase in prices of 54 bulk drugs were calculated and given on the basis of available supporting data with the department and in consultation with the BICP. The imported inputs differ from drug to drug and from manufacturer to manufacturer depending upon the stage of production and technologies etc. The vintage of purchase and the position regarding low priced stocks will also differ from unit to unit in terms of level of stocks and the prices thereof. However, the price of a bulk drug notified is one for the industry as a whole. As already explained in the earlier answer, this action was taken to ensure availability and avoid shortages.

Prices of Dexona range of formulations

1988. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the approved prices of Dexona range of formulations under DPCO, 1979;

(b) on what price of the bulk drug they were based and what were the notified prices of bulk drugs;

(c) in what manner the company has been let off and what are the prices fixed by Government;

(d) whether it is a fact that the company is openly defying Government fixed prices and is also using the generic as well as brand names on its packs; and

(e) what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) To the extent information is available, the notified prices of bulk drugs Dexame-

thasone and its formulations were as under:

S. No.	Details	Notified price under DPCO, 1979
1	2	3
1	*Bulk Drug*	
	(i) Dexamethazone Pure	Rs. 51.30 per gm.
	(ii) Dexamethasone 21 Phosphate	Rs. 55.10 per gm.
2	*Formulations*	
	(i) Dexamethasone Tabs. 0.5mg/Tab. 1000's . .	Rs. 73.96
	(ii) Dexamethasone 21 Phosphate Inj. 5ml/vial .	Rs. 16.64

(c) It is not correct to say that the company has been let off. The current ceiling prices are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) In respect of one such instance brought to the notice of the Government, concerned State Drug Control Authorities have been advised to take necessary action in the matter.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Formulation	(Strength as base)	Pack Size	Ceiling price without Excise Duty
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dexamethasone Tablets . . .	0.5mg/Tab	0×10's Strip;	20.40 (02-11-1991)
2.	Dexamethasone Tablets . .	0.5mg/Tab	1000's Container	140.27 (02-11-1991)
3.	Dexamethasone 21 Phosphate Inj. .	4 mg/ml	2ml vial.	6.56 (02-11-1991)
4.	Dexamethasone 20 Phosphate Inj. .	20 mg/ml	5 ml vial	40.71 (02-11-1991)
5.	Dexamethasone and Neomycin Topical Cream	Dexamethasone 21 Phosphate 0.1% Neomycin Sulphate 0.5%	3.5gm Tube	2.74 (02-11-1991)
6.	Dexamethasone and Neomycin Eye/ Ear Drops	Dexamethasone 21 Phosphate (as disodium salt)—0.1% Neomycin Sulphate—0.5%	2.5ml vial (without dropper)	5.84 (05-06-1992)
7.	Dexamethasone and Neomycin Eye/ Ear Drops	-do-	2.5ml vial (with droper)	4.48 (17-09-1991)
8.	Dexamethasone and ICHQ Ointment	Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate 0.5% Idochlorohydroxyquinoline 5%	5 gm Tube	2.90 (20-12-1991)
9.	-do-	-do-	15 gm Tube	5.63 (20-12-1991)